



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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FEW CHANGES MADE IN ALASKA GAME REGULATIONS THIS SEASON

Other than closing the season on martens throughout the Territory, and on all fur animals in Fur District 1, no material changes have been made in the 1940-41 regulations relating to game, land fur animals, and birds in Alaska, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today. The regulations become effective on July 1.

The regulations govern the hunting and trapping activities of more than 11,000 resident and nonresident hunters and trappers. In the fiscal year 1939, licenses were issued to 140 nonresident hunters, about 5,500 residents who hunt and trap, and about 6,000 residents who hunt only. A nonresident hunting license costs \$50. The resident trapping and hunting fee is \$2, while resident hunters pay \$1.

In recommending the 1940-41 Alaskan regulations, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, stated that although the marten was not confronted with any serious diminution in numbers it was felt that a close season next year would be essential to the maintenance of a safe breeding supply.

Action to close the season on all fur animals in Fur District 1, which includes the southeastern section of the Territory, was the result of widespread petitions from local trappers and of studies by the Alaska Game Commission, the

Biological Survey's operating agency in Alaska, which indicated that intensive trapping over a period of years has reduced the numbers of fur animals in this area. It is felt that a close season is necessary to rehabilitate all species so as to maintain an adequate breeding supply.

Other changes include the following:

The season and limit on caribou have been made uniform throughout Alaska. In the past, the Territory was zoned, with no close season north of the Yukon River. The bag limit for residents is fixed at 3, and for nonresidents at 2. Previously, residents could take 5 caribou a year north of the Yukon.

The open season on mountain sheep and mountain goats has been reduced 15 days to conserve the supply.

The open season on grouse and ptarmigan was advanced from September 1 to August 20 to provide game-bird shooting at a time when hunters otherwise would take mountain goats or sheep for camp meat.

Snowshoe hares, which were introduced on the Kodiak-Afognak Islands group some years ago, were removed from the protected list because these animals have firmly established themselves on the Islands and can now constitute an important item of food for the natives.

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